



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
ONE CONGRESS STREET SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

May 4, 2006

John F. Nicholls, Chairman
Vermont Water Resources Board
National Life Records Center Building
Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-3201

Re: Approval of Water Quality Standards Revisions

Dear Mr. Nicholls:

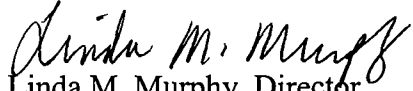
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the Vermont Water Resources Board's (WRB) revisions to its surface water quality standards. These revisions, which involve the reclassification of one water from Class A2 (public water supply) to Class B and a number of minor typographical and stylistic corrections, were adopted on January 25, 2006, with an effective date of February 9, 2006. The revisions were certified by the Vermont Attorney General on February 1, 2006 as having been duly adopted pursuant to state law, and were submitted to EPA by letter dated February 9, 2006.

I hereby approve the water quality standards revisions pursuant to Section 303(c)(2) of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR Part 131 as being consistent with the requirements of Section 303 of the Act.

As indicated in your letter, the only substantive revision is the reclassification of an unnamed tributary of the Winooski River from Class A2 (public water supply) to Class B, which was done without a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA). EPA reviewed the designated uses and water quality criteria applicable to Class A(2) and Class B in the Vermont Water Quality Standards and determined that the support of a UAA in accordance with the federal water quality standards regulations was not necessary in this case. This determination is based on EPA's belief that a reasonable interpretation of Vermont's standards is that such a reclassification does not lower uses or result in less stringent criteria with respect to any use listed at Section 101(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act. EPA is aware that there are ongoing discussions within the State of Vermont that could change the WRB's interpretation of its water quality standards and affect EPA's position concerning whether a UAA would be necessary to support any future reclassifications from Class A2 to Class B.

We look forward to continued cooperation with Vermont in developing water quality standards as a part of our responsibilities under the CWA. Please contact me or either Bill Beckwith (617-918-1544) or Eric Perkins (617-918-1602) of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda M. Murphy".

Linda M. Murphy, Director
Office of Ecosystem Protection

cc: Daniel D. Dutcher VWRB
Wallace McClean, VTDEC
Vernon Lang, USF&WS
Mary Colligan, NOAAF
Peter Colossi, NOAAF
Gregory Stapleton, EPA SSB